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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: MORO'S AMBITIONS

IN HIS PLATFORM MESSAGE TO THE PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 19, PREMIER MORO PROMISED WIDESPREAD ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL REFORMS, AND DEFENDED THE DC DECISION TO FORM A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT EXCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY ROME:

--THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ALREADY CRITICIZED MORO FOR HAVING PROPOSED MUCH MORE THAN IS POSSIBLE, AND EVEN DC SOURCES ADMIT HIS REFORM PROPOSALS WOULD TAKE YEARS TO REALIZE--EVEN WITH A SOLID GOVERNMENT MAJORITY.

--MOST SOURCES AGREE THAT THE FATE OF THE NEW
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GOVERNMENT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE RESULTS OF DC

AND PSI PARTY CONGRESSES IN MARCH. (CONFIDENTIAL)
ROME 2801, 2/20.

2. NEW BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA?

IN THE WAKE OF IAN SMITH'S FEBRUARY 20 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE IS CONSIDERING A BRITISH OFFER TO ASSIST IN FINDING A CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION FOR RHODESIA, FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN DECLARED THAT HMG COULD BECOME INVOLVED ONLY IF SMITH WERE MORE FLEXIBLE. CALLAGHAN STRESSED THAT:

--CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BREAK DOWN AND GUERILLA WARFARE WILL INCREASE UNLESS SMITH GOES A LONG WAY TOWARDS COMPROMISING ON NKOMO'S PROPOSALS.

--IN VIEW OF INDIRECT MESSAGES REACHING HIM, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO CONTACT SMITH TO VERIFY WHETHER BRITISH INVOLVEMENT WAS DESIRED.

EMBASSY LONDON COMMENT: IF SMITH HAS UNDERGONE A CHANGE OF HEART, IT IS A MIRACLE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS. ALTHOUGH UNCERTAINTIES FLOWING FROM ANGOLA MAY HAVE OVERWHELMED HIM, THOSE HERE WHO KNOW SMITH SUSPECT THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HIS INSINCERITY AND DECEPTIVENESS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 2733, 2/20.

3. CHILE: RESENTMENT AND ANXIETY OVER SENATE VOTE

EMBASSY SANTIAGO REPORTS THAT ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIAL STANCE ON THE KENNEDY AMENDMENT TO BAN MILITARY SALES TO CHILE HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, THE PRESS IS HIGHLY CRITICAL AND PINOCHET IS ANGRY. OVERALL, THE CHILEAN REACTION TO THE MOVE IS A MIXTURE OF RESENTMENT OVER HUMPHREY'S AND KENNEDY'S HARSH COMMENTS ABOUT THE "REPRESSIVE" REGIME AND ANXIETY THAT THEIR MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS IS UNEQUAL TO THAT OF NEIGHBORING PERU. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANTIAGO 1347, 2/20. INGERSOLL

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